

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 18-96—sHB 5257

Human Services Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING REPORTS OF ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF
PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY OR AUTISM
SPECTRUM DISORDER**

SUMMARY: This act reduces, from 72 to 48 hours, the amount of time a mandated reporter has to report suspected abuse or neglect of a person (1) with an intellectual disability or (2) served by the Department of Social Services' Division of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services.

By law, mandated reporters of abuse and neglect of individuals in these circumstances include, among others, certain health professionals, mental health workers, people working in schools, and police officers. The act expands the list of mandated reporters to include licensed behavioral analysts.

The law requires mandated reporters to make such reports in any reasonable manner to the commissioner of Developmental Services. The act also allows them to report to his designee instead. Under the act, reporting in a reasonable manner includes efforts to reach the commissioner or his designee by phone, in person, or by email.

By law, anyone who violates the reporting requirement is subject to a fine of up to \$500. Under the act, an unsuccessful attempt to make an initial report to the commissioner or his designee on a weekend, holiday, or after normal business hours is not a violation if the mandated reporter subsequently makes reasonable attempts, including by phone, email, or in person, to reach the commissioner or his designee as soon as practicable.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2018